

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 06933 221212Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USMISSION USBERLIN
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S E C R E T BONN 06933

EXDIS

USBER FOR MINISTER GEORGE
DEPT PLS PASS TO USCOB BERLIN AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, UK, FR, GE, WB
SUBJECT: US PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) LONDON 6322; (B) USBER 1030

1. I CONCUR WITH AND COMMEND THE PROMPT ACTION
TAKEN BY USCOB BERLIN (REF B).

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT ADDITIONAL
MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE PATROLS ARE
NOT UNNECESSARILY PROVOCATIVE. YOU MIGHT WANT TO
CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE, DIRECTING THAT THE PATROLS
ADHERE TO PREDESIGNATED ROUTES (WHICH SHOULD BE
ALTERED, IF NECESSARY, TO AVOID MORE THAN MINIMAL
CONTACT WITH SENSITIVE GDR EVENTS SUCH AS MOTORCADES,
PARADES, ETC.) AND THAT THE PATROLS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED
IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO TRAVERSE EXCESSIVELY THE
SAME AREA WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 06933 221212Z

3. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF THE US
MILITARY LIAISON MISSION OUTSIDE OF AND AROUND BERLIN
AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE IN BERLIN,
IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE PATROLS DO NOT PERFORM A MILITARY
INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION COMMENSURATE WITH THE POLITICAL
RISK INVOLVED IN THE REPETITION OF UNFORTUNATE
INCIDENTS. I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU MIGHT CONSIDER

INFORMING YOUR STAFF THAT THE PATROLS ARE TO BE
CONSIDERED AS HAVING NO REGULAR INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION
AND THAT THE PATROLS SHALL BE CONDUCTED ACCORDINGLY.

4. THE FACT THAT THE PATROLS ARE CONDUCTED IN A MORE
DISCREET AND UNOBTUSIVE MANNER WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED BY
THE SOVIETS AND THE GDR NOR WILL THE FACT THAT THE
NUMBER OF PATROLS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. IF THE SOVIETS
ARE INALTERABLY DETERMINED TO PUSH THE THREE
ALLIES TO A CONFRONTATION OVER THE PATROLS, THERE IS
NO WAY THAT THIS WILL BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, IF, AS IS
OUR HOPE, THE SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO AVOID SUCH A
CONFRONTATION, EVEN AT THE COST OF HAVING TO RESIST GDR
DEMANDS FOR THEIR TERMINATION, THE COMBINATION OF OUR
SHOW OF RESOLVE BY MAINTAINING THE PATROLS' FREQUENCY
WHILE MAKING THEM LESS OBTRUSIVE MAY HELP TO AVOID A
POTENTIAL CRISIS. HOWEVER, OUR PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IN
REVIEWING THE PATROL PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE
TO PLACATE THE SOVIETS, WHOSE ATTITUDES ARE FOUNDED
PRIMARILY ON OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND WHOSE DEMANDS WE
MUST AND WILL REJECT, BUT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE AVOID
UNNECESSARY INCIDENTS IN THE PURSUIT OF TERTIARY
OBJECTIVES.

5. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THIS SUBJECT,
I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS RECOMMENDATION WITH MY FRENCH
AND BRITISH COUNTERPARTS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
THOUGHTS AS TO HOW THE MATTER SHOULD BE TREATED WITH
OUR ALLIES.

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PAGE 03 BONN 06933 221212Z

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